

School Choice and Desegregation, New Kent County, 1965

SAMPLE (FOR OFFICIAL SCHOOL LETTERHEAD)

Date: _____

Dear Parents:

Our school desegregation plan has been officially accepted under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It provides that each pupil, regardless of race, color or national origin, may pick any school in this district, no matter where he went to school before or whether that school was white or Negro. Past requirements for transfer do not apply.

In accordance with this policy you will have a period of seven days to choose a school for your child, if you prefer that he attend a school other than the one to which he is assigned for this school year.

No choice will be denied for any reason other than overcrowding. If there is overcrowding, those living closest to the school will be given their first choice and others will be permitted to make an effective second choice. If there is no effective second choice available for a particular grade, all first choices for that grade will be granted.

No teacher, principal or other school official is permitted to make recommendations or otherwise influence your decision. No child will be favored or penalized because of his choice.

School buses and all facilities, services, activities and programs connected with the schools will be desegregated.

Every pupil has received a copy of this notice and a Choice of School form. Please fill out a separate form for each child and return it to any school by September ____, 1965.

(NOTE: Please fill in date, being sure that at least seven days are provided from the time the notice is distributed. If the plan does not cover all grades for this fall, the grades to be covered should be inserted in the first and last paragraphs.)

Citation: Virginia Department of Education, School Division, Desegregation Files, 1965-1971. Accession 29479. State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA. 23219